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# WILMAT HOLLIES

**1953**

**Evergreen Red Berried**

**English -- Chinese -- American**



*A superb English holly growing in Pennsylvania. Fully exposed to the north and east, it thrives with no winter damage. Equally fine specimens in similar exposures are found in New York and Connecticut.*

\* \* \*

## The Wilmat Holly Co.

Nursery  
Bala-Cynwyd, Pa.

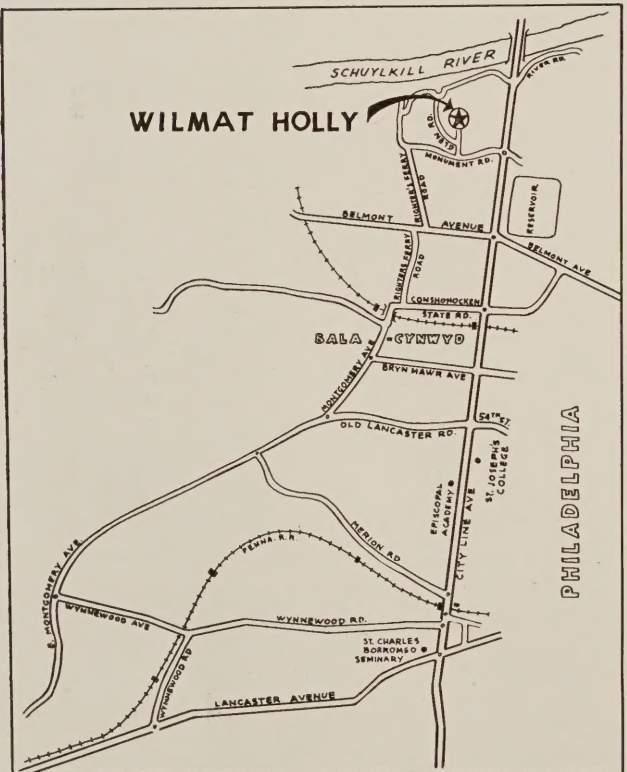
Office  
Narberth, Pa.

Telephone: WElsh Valley 4-7424

## Visit Our Nursery

where you will see 50 or more species and varieties of evergreen red berried hollies. A personal visit is of great help in choosing the hollies you want.

We are open each weekday from 8:30 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. On Sunday only by a previously arranged appointment.



*Largest Collection of Evergreen Hollies*

1

Monument & Glenn Roads

Bala-Cynwyd, Pa.

Telephone: WElsh Valley 4-7424



## The Culture of Evergreen Hollies

All evergreen hollies prefer a light well-drained soil. They should not be planted in ground that is soggy or subject to frequent flooding, nor in a heavy clay soil. While an acid reaction is necessary for good growth of holly, if preparation for them is made as described below, they will thrive.

If you spend twice as much on the hole as on the tree, once planted the tree will take care of itself. This may sound like a Chinese proverb, but it is essentially true. When planting a holly, dig the hole twice as large as required for the roots. Then mix together  $\frac{1}{4}$  sand,  $\frac{1}{4}$  peat moss or rotted leaves, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  good top soil. Plant the tree with the top roots just below the surface of the ground, using the soil mixture for filling around it. (Do not plant hollies deep or they will die.) When the hole is  $\frac{3}{4}$  filled, add water until it is ready to overflow and let it settle. After the water has sunk in, fill the rest of the hole and tamp to compact it. Water again in two days.

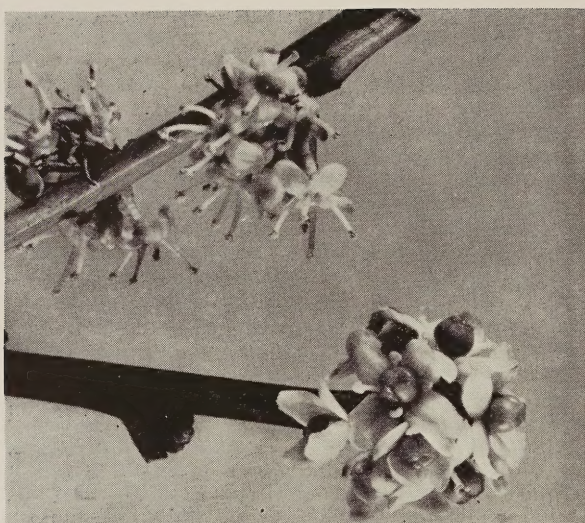
Hollies do not like rubble, mortar and trash usually found around new houses. If you wish to use holly in the foundation planting, dig out the trash which will usually be found under a thin layer of soil and throw it away. Too much emphasis cannot be put on good soil for hollies.

During the heat of summer *soak* the soil around each holly once a week. Cottonseed meal, castor bean meal or soyabean meal are good fertilizers. One handful in May and another in September for each holly will give it the plant food it needs. Do *not* use lime or bone meal, except on English holly.

In November spread a mulch of peat moss, sawdust or ground corncobs two inches thick under each holly. This will conserve moisture, keep weeds down and prevent injury by alternate freezing and thawing. Do not work it into the soil. Repeat each fall.



*A holly hedge is an effective barrier against humans and animals. This one, which is sheared twice a year, surrounds a rose garden.*



*Hollies are male and female. One tree will have male or pollen-producing flowers; another, female. In the picture, male blossoms are in the upper part. Below notice the knob in the center of each female flower. This becomes the berry.*

## USES OF HOLLIES

By growing holly in congenial soil you will find that it has uses normally unsuspected. As "common holly" of the British Isles is considered in England to be the perfect tree for hedges both ornamental and purposeful, so both English and American hollies possess those qualifications for much of the vast area of the United States east of the Mississippi.

Holly may be sheared formally or not and it may be kept at two or twelve feet in height. Close cropping reduces the number of berries but makes a dense discouraging barrier against man and animals. The ease with which holly is restricted by shearing leads to the belief that it would be a worthy subject for the topiarists art.

For espaliering it is ideal. A fan shaped espalier or a conventional tree design as illustrated, can be produced by careful and lengthy training. The art is time consuming and exacting and one that is too little appreciated in America.

Hollies lend themselves readily to a variety of other uses. As sentinels at the entrance they may be sheared to fastigate compactness or permitted to grow delightfully asymmetrical which is frequently their nature. Quite naturally hollies, because of their year round beauty, are on the preferred list of ornamental trees. Each one should be chosen for quality and desired characteristics for they are not like peas in a pod. Not only do they vary in color, size and shape of berry and leaf but also in general growth traits.

More often holly is seen as a lawn specimen or as an interesting accent in foundation planting. Wherever used, if thought is given to the right species and variety for the purpose, the ultimate effect will always be pleasing





*Upper, Alcicornis, a large spiny-leaved English holly. Below, W. J. Bean, another choice variety.*

## ENGLISH HOLLY VARIETIES

The tree known as English holly is native to the British Isles, most of Europe, parts of Asia and north Africa. The botanists call it *Ilex aquifolium*. It varies greatly in shape, size of leaf and berry, and in manner of growth. If the variations in a plant make it distinctive, it is called a variety.

Several varieties of English holly were brought to this country between 1890 and 1930. Some went to Oregon and Washington. These are called Oregon holly. Others were planted in the east. All of the English holly varieties listed here have been taken from trees of known hardiness growing from southern Pennsylvania to Connecticut.

Planted carefully, with the proper exposure and in prepared soil, they should thrive in locations supposed to be too far north for English holly.

## ENGLISH HOLLIES

### ILEX AQUIFOLIUM ALCICORNIS

The large broad glossy leaves are armed with regularly spaced long, stiff, sharp spines. This variety grows rapidly and is apparently quite hardy. The berries are a brilliant red.

Rooted cuttings	\$1.25 each
1 year, 6" - 12"	2.50 each
1 to 2 feet	4.50 each

### ILEX AQUIFOLIUM ANGUSTIFOLIA

A tiny leaved male holly which rates high as an ornamental but is of no value for pollinating. Rare.

Rooted cuttings	\$2.50 each
1 year, 6" - 10"	3.50 each

### ILEX AQUIFOLIUM ARGENTEA MARGINATA

(Silver Queen)

A lovely holly with dark green leaves edged with an uneven cream colored band. It fruits freely. Not plentiful.

Rooted cuttings	\$2.00 each
6" - 12"	3.50 each

### ILEX AQUIFOLIUM AUREA REGINA (Golden Queen)

A beautiful holly and certainly the best of the golden variegated series. The parent tree has been growing in Pennsylvania for 30 or more years, indicating a hardiness worthy of trial over a wide range. Produces dark red berries. See cut.

Rooted cuttings	\$2.00 each
1 year, 6" - 12"	3.50 each
1 to 2 feet	5.00 each

### 7 ILEX AQUIFOLIUM BARNES, male

This bud sport of *I. aquifolium angustifolia* has small quadrangular leaves with 5 or 7 large divaricate spines. An excellent pollinator. Rare.

Rooted cuttings	\$2.00 each
1 year, 6" - 10"	3.50 each

### ILEX AQUIFOLIUM W. J. BEAN (Bean Holly)

At Kew this is considered one of the best, and the stock tree from which these cuttings were taken measures up to their estimation. It is tall and compact with leaves somewhat resembling *hodginsii*, though smaller. The fruit is large and bright red.

Rooted cuttings	\$1.25 each
1 year, 6" - 12"	2.50 each
1 to 2 feet	4.50 each





*Above, Golden Queen, a superb variegated holly. Below, Ciliata major, one of the most beautiful.*

## ILEX AQUIFOLIUM CAMELLIAEFOLIA

(Camellia leaved holly)

On the true camellia holly most of the leaves are spineless and blunt tipped. Too often this variety is confused with the one next below. The blossom petals frequently have a purple cast. The fruit is large and rich red.

Rooted cuttings	\$2.00 each
1 year, 6" - 12"	3.50 each

## ILEX AQUIFOLIUM CILIATA MAJOR

A vigorous variety, the young shoots of which are deep purple. To us, this is the most beautiful of all the English hollies growing in the east. The stock plant, which is over 12 feet tall and of equal thickness, has withstood the winter extremes well. The leaves, which are over 3 inches long, have many spines. In color they are dark glossy olive green. The berries are of medium size and bright red.

Rooted cuttings	\$1.50 each
1 year, 6" - 12"	2.50 each
1 to 2 feet	5.00 each

## ILEX AQUIFOLIUM CRISPA (Screw-leaved holly)

Its spirally twisted leaves are usually spineless and of moderate size. This is a male form, attractive as an ornamental, but with sterile pollen.

Rooted cuttings	\$1.50 each
1 year, 6" - 12"	2.50 each

## ILEX AQUIFOLIUM DONNINGTONENSIS

The spiny leaves are thick-textured and of purple hue. The tree is free growing and bears a fine crop of berries. An excellent hardy variety.

Rooted cuttings	\$1.25 each
1 year, 6" - 12"	2.50 each
1 to 2 feet	4.50 each

## ILEX AQUIFOLIUM FISHERI (Fisher's Best)

The parent tree growing in eastern Pennsylvania is a handsome free growing sort which produces parthenocarpic fruit freely. A male strain has also been identified whose wedge shaped leaves measure 3 inches in length.

Rooted cuttings	\$1.25 each
1 year, 6" - 12"	2.50 each
1 to 2 feet	4.50 each

## ILEX AQUIFOLIUM FOXII (Fox Holly)

Is growing in a garden which was laid out in 1906. The tree is taller and narrower than handsworthensis, while the foliage is a lighter green. A male clone—an excellent pollinator.

Rooted cuttings	\$1.25 each
1 year, 6" - 12"	2.50 each
1 to 2 feet	4.50 each

## ILEX AQUIFOLIUM FRUCTU-AURANTIACO

(Orange Berried Holly)

Leaves deep green and sharply spined. Berries a bright orange. An attractive novelty.

Rooted cuttings	\$1.25 each
1 year, 6" - 12"	2.50 each

## ILEX AQUIFOLIUM FRUCTU-LUTEO

(Yellow Berried Holly)

This is the oldest known variety of English holly. History says it was discovered several centuries ago growing in the woods near Wardour Castle in Wiltshire. The yellow fruits are attractive.

Rooted cuttings	\$1.25 each
1 year, 6" - 12"	2.50 each





*Integrifolia, one of the most popular English hollies.*

#### ILEX AQUIFOLIUM HANDSWORTHENSIS

This tree is at least 40 years old. Its height is 19 feet, while at the base it is ten feet in diameter. Normally it bears a moderate crop of orange red berries of average size. This is an extremely hardy variety, compact and symmetrical.

1 year, 6" - 12"	\$2.50 each
1 to 2 feet	4.50 each

#### ILEX AQUIFOLIUM HETEROPHYLLA

The moderate sized glossy leaves are variously spined or entire. The brilliantly red berries and deep purple stems make it a handsome specimen.

Rooted cuttings	\$1.25 each
1 year, 6" - 12"	2.50 each
1 to 2 feet	4.50 each

#### ILEX AQUIFOLIUM INTEGRIFOLIA

Comes from just over the southern Pennsylvania line in Delaware. The parent bush is ten feet tall with equal spread. The foliage seems as glossy as on Ilex cornuta but of a deep green color. It bears berries in considerable quantity each year, even though there is no staminate aquifolium tree nearby. A male form is one of the best pollinators.

Rooted cuttings	\$1.25 each
1 year, 6" - 12"	2.50 each
1 to 2 feet	4.50 each



*The upper one is a male variety, Robinsoniana. Below is Smithiana.*



## ILEX AQUIFOLIUM LAURIFOLIA

(Laurel Leafed Holly)

A well marked and well known entire leafed type which may have green or purple bark. Both berrying and pollen bearing forms are available.

Rooted cuttings	\$1.50 each
1 year, 6" - 12"	2.50 each

## ILEX AQUIFOLIUM LICHTENTHALII

The outstanding characteristics of this are: (1) the glossy pale green foliage, and (2) except for the terminal spine, there are usually only two others on each leaf. These are placed just back of the apex and point forward, giving the leaf a distinctive shape. The parent trees, three in number, are about 25 years old, broadly conical, about 12 feet in height. The fruit is of average size and brilliant red.

Rooted cuttings	\$1.25 each
1 year, 6" - 12"	2.50 each
1 to 2 feet	4.50 each

## ILEX AQUIFOLIUM MARNOCKI

The parent tree is growing in northern New Jersey. The foliage is similar to *camelliaefolia*, but more of the leaves are armed with sturdy spines. Because both the leaves and upper surface of the stems have a purple cast, the tree has a rich but somber appearance. It produces berries of medium size.

Rooted cuttings	\$1.25 each
1 year, 6" - 12"	2.50 each
1 to 2 feet	4.50 each

## ILEX AQUIFOLIUM PYRAMIDALIS

A fine vigorous-habited male variety with purple bark. The leaves are large, dark green, oblong-elliptic with scattered spines. Many have entire margins. The parent tree has thrived north of Philadelphia for forty years, and now has two trunks, each over 6 inches in diameter.

Rooted cuttings	\$1.25 each
1 year, 6" - 12"	2.00 each
1 to 2 feet	4.50 each

## ILEX AQUIFOLIUM RECURVA

A superb hedge plant. The small sharply spined and recurved leaves are closely set on a twiggy compact shrub.

Rooted cuttings	\$1.25 each
1 year, 6" - 12"	2.50 each

## ILEX AQUIFOLIUM ROBINSONIANA

Bark deep red, leaves dark olive green, sharply spined. It grows rapidly and blossoms heavily when young. A male.

Rooted cuttings	\$1.25 each
1 year, 6" - 12"	2.50 each
1 to 2 feet	4.50 each

## ILEX AQUIFOLIUM SCOTICA (Scotch Holly)

A distinct and well marked holly, the young shoots of which are deep purple. The leaves are round obovate of medium size, with a deep green color, of corky texture and with few spines. The berries are above average in size and showy. It grows well in Scotland.

Rooted cuttings	\$1.25 each
1 year, 6" - 12"	2.50 each
1 to 2 feet	4.50 each

### ILEX AQUIFOLIUM SMITHIANA (Smith's Holly)

A distinct variety with narrow leaves—the green counterpart of *donningtonensis*. The bark is green or tinged with reddish purple. The leaves are 2 to 2½ inches long and about 1 inch in width, of a bright glossy green and having weakish spines which are moderately divaricate. Contrary to Dallimore, this tree produces an abundance of berries though there is a male strain.

Rooted cuttings	\$1.25 each
1 year, 6" - 12"	2.50 each
1 to 2 feet	4.50 each

### ILEX AQUIFOLIUM WHITTINGTONENSIS

(Whittington's Holly)

A small leafed elegant holly with purple bark and ellipti-ovate leaves having numerous stiff divaricate spines.

Rooted cuttings	\$1.25 each
1 year, 6" - 12"	2.50 each
1 to 2 feet	4.50 each



*One of the hybrids of the altaclarensis group growing in the northeast. This superb tree withstood 14° below zero with less injury than rhododendrons and flowering shrubs nearby.*





*Two of the Hybrid group. Above, Belgica; below Hodginsii.*



*Wilsoni, another Hybrid. Rare and beautiful.*

## HYBRID HOLLIES

The next six varieties, although usually classed as English holly, are essentially different. Presumably natural hybrids between *Ilex aquifolium* and the Canary Island holly, *Ilex perado* or *Ilex platyphylla*. All have large, broad, more or less flat leaves with none of the recurving tendency of *aquifolium* foliage. They are all beautiful plants of rapid growth, and are worthy of a trial as far north as southern Connecticut. In Standardized Plant Names they are grouped under the specific name *altaclarensis* and so they shall be here.

### ILEX ALTACLARENSIS

The stock tree from which these were taken is fully 25 feet in height and 10 feet in breadth. It is one of the finest and hardiest of the group with roundish-ovate leaves 3 to 4 inches long. On some leaves the spines are numerous and regularly developed, while on others they are few or absent. It fruits freely without a male form present.

Rooted cuttings	\$1.50 each
1 year, 6" - 12"	2.50 each
1 to 2 feet	5.00 each



**ILEX ALTA CLARENSIS BELGICA** (Belgian Holly)

Sometimes called Dutch holly. Leaves large oblong-ovate and sap green in color. It is not unlike *shepherdii*, but berries more freely.

Rooted cuttings	\$1.50 each
1 year, 6" - 12"	2.50 each
1 to 2 feet	5.00 each

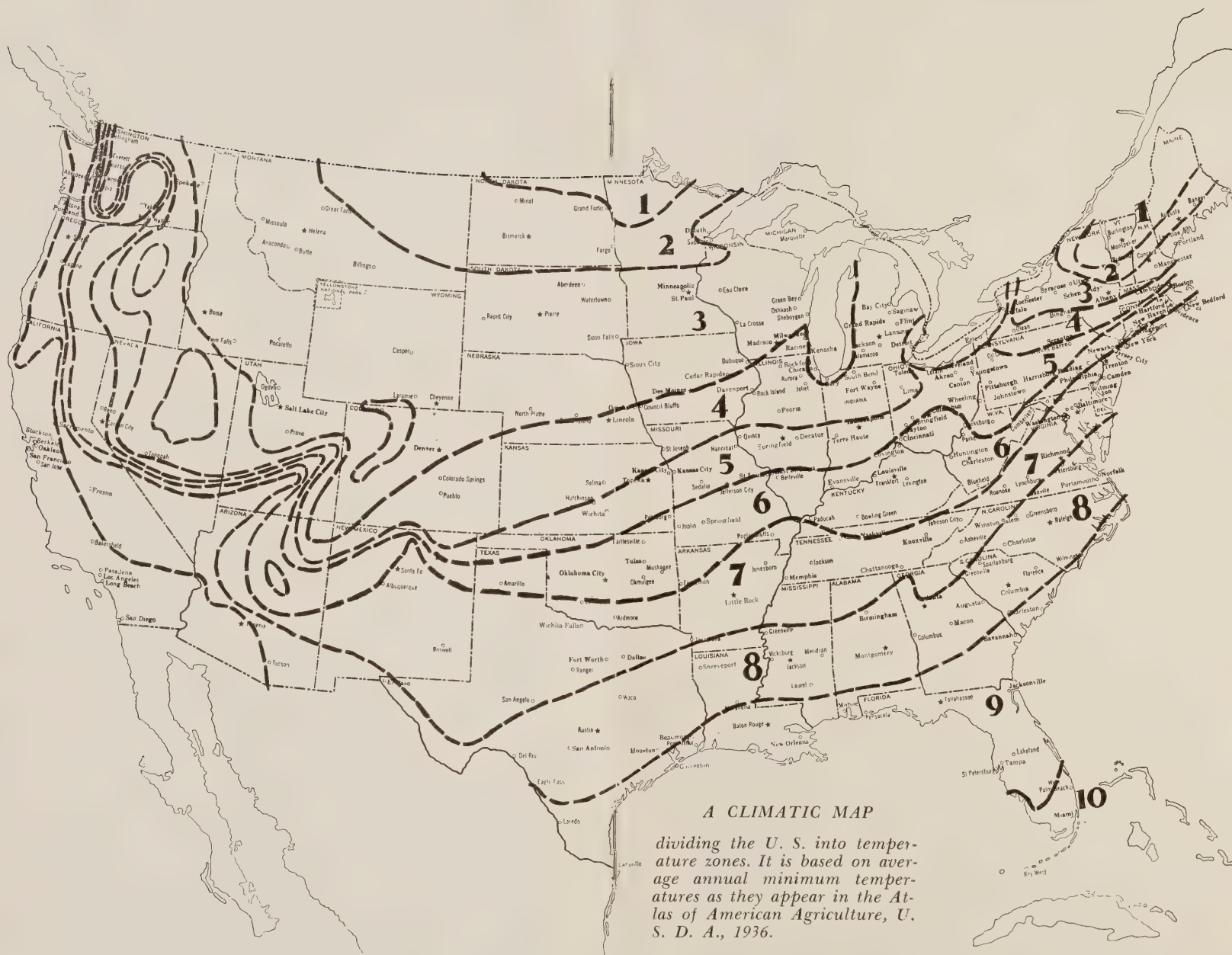
**ILEX ALTA CLARENSIS HODGINSII** (Hodgin's Holly)

The tree from which these cuttings were taken is an illustration of holly at its best in the northeast. Pyramidal, compact, 12 feet in height with large dark green leaves and fruit more than 1/2 inch in diameter, it has thrived in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, for 20 or more years.

Rooted cuttings	\$1.50 each
1 year, 6" - 12"	2.50 each
1 to 2 feet	5.00 each



*Ilex platyphylla pallida*, the gray-leaved Canary Island holly. It is superb.



The boundaries of these zones are not always straight as indicated, for they are modified by elevation, mountains, river valleys and other factors. But such zones offer a basis for judging possibilities of plant adaptability.

For instance, American holly is growing in northern Illinois, near Detroit and in southern New York so we be-

lieve it will thrive nearly everywhere in zone 4 and might be tried in parts of zone 3.

English hollies at least 20 years old are doing well in zone 6 and a few have been reported from zone 5. Hardy strains of *Ilex cornuta* have been reported in zone 5.





## ILEX ALTA CLARENSIS JAN VANTOL

One of the best known and preferred hollies. Also one of the hardiest. The berries are as much as 1/2 inch in diameter and plentiful.

Rooted cuttings	\$1.50 each
1 year, 6" - 12"	2.50 each
1 to 2 feet	5.00 each

## ILEX ALTA CLARENSIS SHEPHERDII

(Shepherd's Holly)

One of the finest and hardiest of the large leafed hybrids. In texture and shape, the leaves indicate platyphylla parentage. A superb tree.

Rooted cuttings	\$1.50 each
1 year, 6" - 12"	2.50 each
1 to 2 feet	5.00 each

## ILEX ALTA CLARENSIS WILSONI (Wilson's Holly)

A vigorous growing green barked holly with leaves as much as 5 inches in length. Considered by many the most beautiful of all evergreen hollies. Rare.

Rooted cuttings	\$2.50 each
1 foot	6.00 each
18"	7.50 each

# CANARY ISLAND HOLLIES

The following three varieties are unique. Though apparently of warm climate origin, the trees from which these plants were propagated have lived in Eastern Pennsylvania for more than 20 years and seem to have acclimated themselves to the vagaries of the weather. They should be a part of every holly collection. The stock is scarce.

## ILEX PLATYPHYLLA

A neat green barked holly with large, thick, flat leaves regularly armed with small sharp spines. The fruit is crimson. An English holly male will pollinate any of this group.

Rooted cuttings	\$2.00 each
1 year, 6" - 12"	3.50 each
1 to 2 feet	6.00 each

## ILEX PLATYPHYLLA BALEARICA (Balearic Holly)

Usually classed as a variety of aquifolium, it bears little resemblance to it. The large oblong-ovate flat leaves are frequently spineless. A vigorous grower which berries freely.

Rooted cuttings	\$2.00 each
1 year, 6" - 12"	3.50 each
1 to 2 feet	6.00 each

## ILEX PLATYPHYLLA PALLIDA (Gray Leafed Holly)

As lovely a holly as ever grew. The gently arching elliptic gray green leaves are frequently four inches long. The berries are extremely large and bright orange red. A collector's item.

Rooted cuttings	\$2.00 each
1 year, 6" - 12"	3.50 each
1 to 2 feet	6.00 each

## HOLLIES OF ASIATIC ORIGIN

Some of the most interesting, unique and beautiful plants of our gardens are of Chinese origin. The hollies of the Orient are no exception. One might be taken for a pear tree, though the foliage is evergreen, and the cherry red fruit is suspended on 2 inch stems. Another has the glossiest leaves and the largest and sharpest spines. All of them should be better known and more widely tried.

### ILEX AQUIPERNYI

Though this is a cross between aquifolium and pernyi, because it shows more clearly the pernyi parentage, it is put in the Chinese group. A neat small tree with sharply spined leaves, because of its hybrid vigor and seeming hardiness, it should be tried over a wide range. Rare.

Rooted cuttings	\$1.75 each
1 year, 6" - 10"	3.00 each
10" - 20"	5.00 each

### ILEX AQUIPERNYI BRILLIANT, female

A hybrid of pernyi and aquifolium with vigor, charm and fine fruit. It grows rapidly and is quite hardy in Montgomery Co., Pa.

Rooted cuttings	\$1.50 each
1 year, 6" - 10"	3.00 each

### ILEX CILIOSPINOSA, male and female

An Asiatic species which grows tall and straight. A fine accent plant; a profuse bloomer and excellent fruiter if a male of the same species is nearby.

Rooted cuttings	\$1.50 each
2 year, 10" - 15"	4.50 each

### ILEX CORNUTA

An ornamental small tree with handsome lustrous foliage of odd shape. Questionably hardy north of Philadelphia. Both male and female trees are available. It thrives in heat and light soil.

Rooted cuttings	\$1.25 each
1 year, 6" - 10"	2.00 each
10" - 20"	4.50 each



*The Chinese horned holly, Ilex cornuta. Glossy leaves and plentiful red fruit. A wonderful plant for hedge or specimen.*





*Ilex pernyi*. A lovely small-leaved Chinese species.

#### ILEX CORNUTA BURFORDI

A fruiting seedling sport of cornuta which is hardier than the species. Plantings on Long Island have done well. As a specimen or in foundation, it is unexcelled the year around. It is at home in a sandy soil with temperature of 95°.

Rooted cuttings	\$1.00 each
1 year, 6" - 10"	2.00 each
10" - 20"	4.50 each

#### ILEX LATIFOLIA

An exotically striking holly with leaves as much as 8 inches long and from 2 to 3 inches wide. Questionably hardy at Philadelphia, it does well on the Eastern Shore and from Washington south.

Rooted cuttings	\$1.50 each
1 year, 6" - 10"	2.50 each
1 to 2 feet	4.50 each

#### ILEX PEDUNCULOSA (The Long Stalk Holly)

A superb holly which should be better known because of its beauty and hardiness. A columnar tree with cherry red fruits which are suspended on long stems. Must have both male and female trees for fruit.

Rooted cuttings	\$1.50 each
1 year, 6" - 10"	3.00 each

### ILEX PERNYI

Has tiny, crowded, rhombic leaves usually with two spines on each side with a long sharp terminal one. The ovoid red fruit is closely appressed to the twig. A fine specimen is growing in Philadelphia.

Rooted cuttings	\$1.25 each
1 year, 6" - 10"	2.50 each
10" - 20"	4.50 each

### ILEX PERNYI VEITCHII

Similar to pernyi but with larger, glossier and broader leaves. An attractive large shrub.

Rooted cuttings	\$1.50 each
1 year, 6" - 10"	2.50 each
10" - 20"	5.00 each



*This is the long-stalked holly, Ilex pedunculosa. The red berries hang down on two-inch stems.*

Nursery is open Monday through Saturday from 8:30 to 4:30. No business transacted on Sunday except by special appointment.

## AMERICAN HOLLY

Though this is at the bottom of the list, do not overlook it. In hardiness it is superior to all the other red fruited evergreen hollies. Native from Portsmouth, New Hampshire, south, any of those listed below can be tried where the temperature does not go lower than 30 degrees below zero.

American holly is so variable in the wild that we purposely carry no seedlings. Only rooted cuttings or grafted plants of select varieties or strains will be found listed. Even though the male opaca item does not carry a varietal name, it is nevertheless a selection we consider worthy of dissemination.



*A fine specimen 36 feet tall which was planted some time after 1900. This tree is laden with bright crimson berries annually.*





*Old Heavy Berry, one of the better American varieties.*

#### ILEX OPACA ARDEN

This variety has been propagated many years and is still in the high quality group. Its hardiness, the deep green color of the leaves and the size and profusion of berries class it among the best.

Rooted cuttings	\$1.25 each
Nicely branched 6" - 10"	2.50 each
10" - 18"	4.50 each

#### ILEX OPACA CROONENBERG

A compact plant with large dark green leaves and bright red fruit. One of the good American hollies.

Rooted cuttings	\$1.25 each
1 year, 6" - 10"	2.50 each
10" - 20"	4.50 each

## ILEX OPACA DRAPER

A neat dense tree with moderate sized spiny leaves of good color and texture. Hardy. Shiny rich red berries.

Rooted cuttings	\$1.25 each
1 year, 6" - 10"	2.50 each
10" - 20"	4.50 each

## ILEX OPACA EVANS

An interesting plant with large apple green leaves, somewhat contorted. Both the leaf petiole and the twigs are wavy in growth. The berries are large and profuse.

Rooted cuttings	\$1.25 each
1 year, 6" - 10"	2.50 each
10" - 20"	4.50 each



*A typical field grown American holly. Trunk circumference 7 feet 9 inches. Spread 32 feet. Height 34 feet. This tree is well over 200 years old.*

### ILEX OPACA OLD HEAVY BERRY

Hard to root, though a superb variety with the glossiest foliage of all American hollies.

Rooted cuttings	\$1.50 each
1 year, 6" - 10"	3.00 each
10" - 20"	5.00 each

### ILEX OPACA XANTHOCARPA (Yellow Berried Holly)

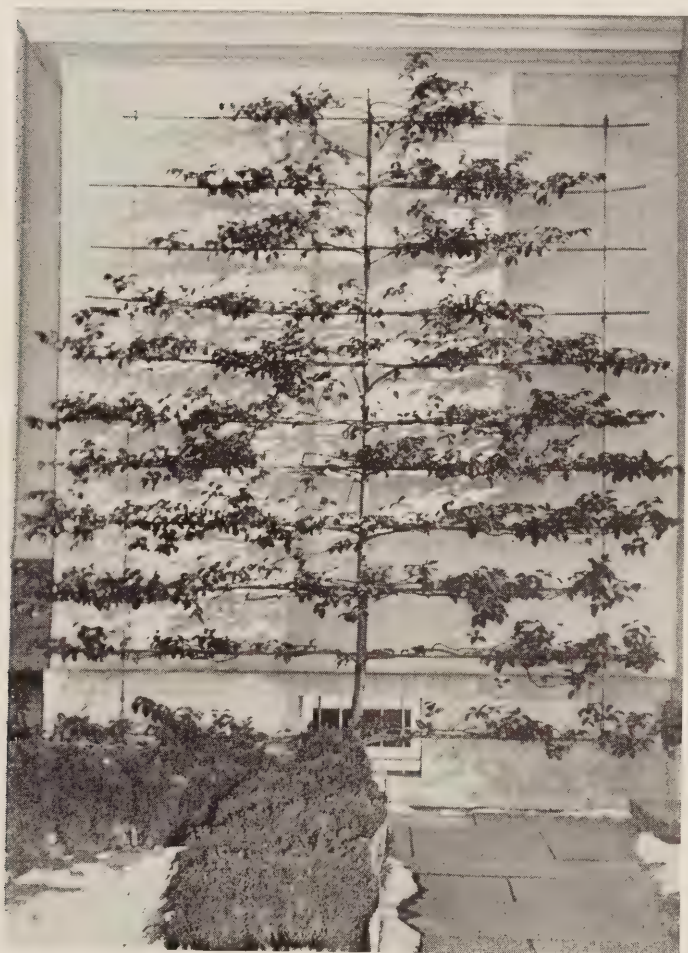
There are many American hollies with yellow berries. We have tried several, but this is outstanding in clearness of berries, dense growth, and excellent color of leaves.

Rooted cuttings	\$1.25 each
1 year, 6" - 10"	2.50 each

### ILEX OPACA, MALE

We have some good unnamed male plants chosen for the fertility of their pollen.

Rooted cuttings	\$1.25 each
1 year, 6" - 10"	2.50 each
10" - 20"	4.50 each



*An American holly espaliered conventionally against the north wall of a house. The red berries and rich green foliage are cheery notes throughout the winter.*



We are proud of this collection, which is the result of diligent search over seven northeastern states to find the parent trees. Only those which have been growing a long time in their present location, frequently over 20 years, were chosen.

We are indebted to botanists of The Royal Botanic Garden for their aid in identification, particularly of the clones of *Ilex aquifolium*.

### HOW TO ORDER

All prices in this catalog are net F.O.B. Narberth, Pa. No discounts will be allowed. Prices quoted will hold for 1953, and supercede all others.

### TERMS

Our terms are cash with the order. On express C.O.D. shipments one quarter of the amount must be received with the order. Make checks or money order payable to Wilmat Holly Company.

We earnestly request patrons to send orders in early. The stock of several items is limited. Please give us definite shipping instructions and the proper address.

Most of our shipments are sent express collect and are insured. If parcel post shipment is requested, it will not be insured and travels at the buyer's risk. We do not suggest parcel post shipments if there is an express station available.

On parcel post shipments there will be a minimum shipping charge of 60c added to orders of less than \$10.00; above \$10.00 add 10% for parcel post shipment.

THE WILMAT HOLLY COMPANY

Box 304

Narberth, Pa.

February 1953



## The Growth of the Holly

Young hollies grow rapidly under ideal conditions. Annual height increase of 18 to 24 inches is common, while 36 inches is known. Because of this characteristic small plants grown in pots so the entire root system is preserved, will result in fine large trees in a very few years. An experience bears out this truth.

A property owner in 1940 bought a pair of hollies 12 feet tall with an 8 foot spread. They were delivered and planted in specially prepared soil. At the same time four small hollies of the same species were planted in the same soil by the same men. Six years later the four hollies averaged 13 feet 6 inches in height and 6 feet in breadth, while the two large trees had grown only 18 inches in height and 1 foot in breadth. The small hollies which were 2 feet tall in 1940 grew 11 feet 6 inches in 6 years compared to 1 foot 6 inches added by the larger trees. The writer has not seen these trees since 1946 but he is told that today the trees which were 2 feet tall in 1940 are now the larger in all respects.

The rapid growth of small trees with undisturbed root systems is well known. To a large tree the shock of moving is great and the time of adjustment is long, while a pot grown tree transferred to the ground is only aware of the release of its roots. No wonder it grows!

## Holly Facts

Reports are occasionally received of trees which bear both staminate and pistillate flowers. Usually the blossoms have not been examined to determine whether anthers containing pollen and an ovule are present. Instead, only the fact that a lone tree has borne fruit is given as proof. This is not unusual. One such instance is well known—that of a large American holly growing on a mountain top with no other holly within 1500 feet of it. There are however, many hollies beyond the 1500 foot radius. At blossoming time bees are plentiful in the lone tree and from there travel to other hollies one half mile away before going to their hives. It happens that this holly though all by itself, is in a “bee line” between male trees and the hive. So the profusion of berries each year is not due to hermaphroditism but to the natural pollinating agent, the bee. Interestingly, holly honey is a rare delicacy.

In other cases, berries will form without pollination of the ovule. This is known as parthenocarpy. The berry appears normal, but the seeds are sterile. This phenomenon occurs more frequently on English and Chinese species than on American.

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Hollies may be grown from seed, from cuttings, or by grafting or budding. When grown from seed, the trees may or may not look like the one from which the seed came, and they may be male or female. There is no way of telling in advance. Most holly seed does not start to grow until 2 years after it has been produced; some not until the third year. Moreover, seedling hollies grow slowly at first and must be grown for at least five and sometimes ten years before you know whether they are worth keeping. For these reasons, those who want to grow fine hollies do not plant seed.

Instead, they grow them from cuttings or slips, which are 4 to 5 inch pieces of the current year's growth taken from the trees they think worth reproducing. These are inserted in sand or some other rooting medium, usually in a greenhouse or cold frame. After a number of weeks, roots appear at the base. The rooted cuttings are then lifted carefully and put into pots to be grown for a year, at the end of which time, they should be from 6 to 10 inches tall and ready to line out in the garden or nursery.

Grafting is a technique, practiced for many generations, of producing a union between a section of twig taken from a choice tree and the roots of another holly, usually of seedling origin. The skill necessary to produce a high percentage of successful grafts comes readily with practice. However, the process is slower than that of rooting cuttings. Moreover, the grafts after being made must be kept in closed grafting boxes (usually in a greenhouse), and given bottom heat. The resulting trees are as fine as those from cuttings, but because of the skill and equipment needed, it is less practiced than formerly.

Budding, a variation of grafting, in which only one bud is inserted into the bark of another tree and made to grow, is seldom used in propagating hollies.

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The plant known as English holly, *Ilex aquifolium*, is native to the British Isles, western and southern

Europe from Norway to Turkey and parts of Asia. It is probably the largest of all the hollies attaining a known height of 75 feet and a trunk girth of 14 feet. Next in size is American holly, *Ilex opaca*, which reaches 55 feet in height and 10 feet in circumference of the trunk. This tree is native from Massachusetts to Florida and westward to Texas and Oklahoma. It also is found up the Mississippi valley to Missouri and Indiana. It is thence indigenous to a very large area of the United States, while it will grow in a much larger area.



## EVERGREEN HOLLIES

### Indoors and Out

Evergreen hollies in small sizes make delightful house plants which require no special attention if they are kept in a cool room. Morning sun is beneficial, afternoon sun, sometimes, harmful. In the house do not water too often, yet the soil should not become dry.

A little bone meal spread lightly over the soil is beneficial for English and Chinese hollies. American hollies prefer a fertilizer with a more acid reaction, such as cottonseed meal or castor bean meal. If these cannot be had use Hollytone or a similar acid reacting fertilizer.

Some persons living in a region where hollies do not do well planted out of doors, keep their plants indoors each winter. Each spring they are repotted using rotted cow manure and a pot 1 inch larger, after which the pots are sunk in the garden. Then the hollies thrive and if a male of the same species is present, berries will set to be enjoyed the following winter indoors.

When planting hollies, choose a location with good air and soil drainage. Do not plant them in ground that is soggy or subject to flooding. They need sunlight or light high shade. Do not plant them too deep. The top roots should be just under the surface of the soil. Mulch hollies each December with peat moss, buckwheat hulls or similar material.

During dry weather water hollies thoroughly once a week. Do not sprinkle each day. This may do more harm than good. Keep weeds from competing with hollies for food and water. Light cultivation is beneficial. Do not damage roots. Protect hollies from rabbits and field mice.



### Hollies from the Orient

Some of the most interesting, unique and beautiful plants of our gardens are of Chinese origin, and hollies are no exception. Among the red fruited species will be found outstanding trees which are becoming more appreciated each year.

First to be mentioned is *Ilex cornuta*, the horned holly, which is a small bushy headed tree with curious, thick, leathery, quadrangular leaves of unusual gloss. The three spines at the apex are long, strong and sharp. There are usually two others at the base, although on



older trees many of the leaves will lack them. The white flowers are borne in axillary clusters early, since they appear on previous year's wood. The large, bright red fruit terminates a slender stalk one half inch long. The horned holly is a small tree of striking beauty which is hardy in zone 7 on the climatic map and is worthy of trial in zone 6.

Several years ago a sport of *cornuta* appeared, the leaves of which are spineless or nearly so, deeper green and very glossy. This has been named *I. cornuta burfordi*. Though the burford holly has not been tested extensively, it appears hardier than the parent. A sturdy fast growing tree near Philadelphia is thriving, while others on Long Island indicate that it is worthy of general use in that region. Because of its compactness, heavy berry production and beauty, it is one of the choicest.

Coming also from China is *Ilex pernyi*, named in honor of the French missionary and botanical explorer, Paul Perny. The leaves of this tree frequently measure less than one inch long, impressing one as miniature duplicates of those of *cornuta*. The ovoid red berry has no stem, being attached to the base of the leaf. An upright, compact tree to 12 or 15 feet, in its juvenile years it grows rapidly, slowing down as it gets older. A tree worthy of wide use.

A variety of *pernyi* with larger leaves and smaller spines resulted from seed sent to the Veitch Nursery in England by E. H. Wilson. More loose growing, *Ilex pernyi veitchii* makes an open coarser tree.

Several crosses of *I. pernyi* and English holly have produced interesting and beautiful hybrids which have been named *Ilex aquipernyi*. Both the male and female forms appear hardier than either parent which would lead us to believe they would grow in parts of zone 5. Having characteristics of both species, *aquipernyi* is an open growing hybrid with *pernyi* type leaves, though much larger and revolute. The fruit is slightly flattened, bright red and with an indication of a stalk.

Possibly the most unique of the species from the Orient is *Ilex pedunculosa*, the long stalk holly, which on cursory glance might be mistaken for a pear tree or a cherry. Though evergreen, the leaves have none of the stiffness or corkiness of other hollies. It is a columnar tree to 30 feet in height, compact and impressive. The female bears cherry red berries suspended on 2 inch stems or peduncles, hence its name. This species is growing at Arnold Arboretum in Massachusetts, also in Westchester County, N. Y. Trees from hardy stock should do well in much of zone 5.

This group of hollies from China and adjacent lands should be planted much more freely than at present. They are quite free from insect and fungous attack and grow in a variety of soils. Moreover they withstand drought and high temperatures better than do the English varieties.

## Memoranda

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## Memoranda

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# ***Our Specialty . . .***

**Small Hollies**

**Heavily Berried**

**Lovely Christmas Gifts**



**Orders accepted after September 1st.**

*Though Nature is lavish in her display of beauty, holly stands pre-eminently queen, bedecked in crimson jewels and lustrous foliage, a symbol at Yule and an inspiration the year long.*